

Meshomasic Hiking Club Summer 2017 Schedule of Events

<http://meshomasichikingclub.org>

Ratings: A=very rough terrain, elevation gain over 1000 ft.; B=difficult terrain, elevation gain 500-1000 ft.; C=average terrain, moderate up and down; D=flat, little or no elevation change; E=exploratory, be prepared for anything; P=paddle; 1=fast; 2=brisk; 3=average; 4=slow

FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Saturday, July 1, 9:15a - Walden Preserve Butterfly Hike, Salem: A 4- to 5-mile slow-paced hike through gently rolling fields and trails to search for some of the over 50 species of butterflies observed at this preserve. Held in conjunction with the Connecticut Butterfly Association. Ice cream to follow at Salem Valley Farms. Rating: D3. Kids OK but no dogs. Sneakers are OK. Bring snack & water. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Colchester commuter parking lot on Route 16 just west of Route 2, exit 18. RSVP by 06/30 to Andrea at 860-873-8867.

Sunday, July 2, 9:15a - Case Mountain Park, Manchester: A roughly 5-mile hike to one of the best views in the state. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Line Street Parking lot for 9:15 start. Directions: From intersection of Route 94 and Route 83 in Glastonbury, go north on Route 83. At Manchester/Glastonbury border (across from Shallowbrook Road), take right on Line Street and park in lot on left in roughly a mile. Don't park in golf course lot. Alternatively from I-384, take exit 3, left at light onto route 83, cross reservoir causeway and take left onto Line Street near Manchester/Glastonbury border. RSVP by 07/01 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

***Tuesday, July 4, 10:00a - Paddle on the Salmon River from Sunrise S. P., East Haddam:** A paddle of 6 to 7 miles on the Salmon River near the Machimoods S. P. and on lower Pine Brook and lower Moodus River. I expect there will be opportunity for swimming. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at the paddle launch in Sunrise State Park (the old resort) at the bottom of the hill. RSVP by 07/04 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Wednesday, July 5, 9:00a - Chapman Mill Pond Preserve, Westbrook: A 6-mile hike to overlooks over a pond. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 07/04 to John at 860-342-0658.

Thursdays, July 6 through September 28, 9:00a - Hurd State Park, East Hampton: This hike happens each Thursday at the same location, but check with Chantal in case of a change. We do a 3.6-mile loop with a fairly steep climb of 300 feet at a good pace. We complete the loop at 10:30 am. Friendly, well-managed dogs are welcome. Rating: B2. No kids please. Hiking boots only. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hurd Park winter parking lot at the intersection of Route 151 (Middle Haddam Road) and Hurd Park Road at the traffic light. From Route 66 in Cobalt, take Route 151 south for 2.5 miles. RSVP by the day prior to Chantal at 860-573-2946.

***Friday, July 7, 7:00p - Night Paddle on Upper Moodus Reservoir, East Haddam:** An evening paddle of about 6 miles to enjoy the full moonrise on a pleasant reservoir with many inlets and much wildlife. Perhaps there will be a chance to swim. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at the launch parking lot at the end of Launching Area Road. RSVP by 07/07 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, July 8, 1:00p - Mattabeset River Paddle and Water Chestnut Pull, Middletown: A paddle of indeterminate length on the Coginchaug and Mattabeset Rivers to pull the water chestnut an invasive water plant. Kayaks, canoes, and motor boats are needed. For more information see <http://thejonahcenter.org/> Rating: P3. No kids or dogs. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring water to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Middletown launch site for the Coginchaug River at 181 Johnson Street (end of Johnson Street) in Middletown next to the Middletown Recycling Center. From east of the CT River, cross the Arrigoni Bridge (Route 66), turn right on Spring Street, turn right on Johnson Street and follow to the end over the RR tracks. From west of the CT River, take exit 16 of Route 9, drive up the hill, turn right on North Main Street just before Route 66, follow to Johnson Street, then turn right over the RR tracks. RSVP by 07/07 to John Hall at the Jonah Center at 860-398-3771.

Saturday, July 8, 5:00p - Whitehouse Family Preserve, Glastonbury: A 4-mile walk on a preserve to a vista of Hartford. Pizza afterward at Olympia in South Glastonbury. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring water and cash for pizza. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 07/07 to John at 860-342-0658.

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FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

***Tuesday, July 11, 6:00a - Morning Paddling Exercise, Locally:** Early morning paddling for exercise. Time and distance self-determined. Location will be decided by participants and likely will be in the vicinity of East Hampton. If interested you must contact Tony by the day prior. Rating: P2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinking water. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the location to be determined by participants. RSVP by 07/10 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Tuesday, July 11, 8:30a - Devil's Hopyard State Park, East Haddam: An approximately 5-mile hike on yellow and red trails. Rating: D2. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring water. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the State Park parking lot on Hopyard Road. RSVP by 07/10 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, July 12, 9:00a - Hancock Brook and Lions Head, Waterbury: A 6-mile hike on a blue-blazed trail to a vista and cliff. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 07/11 to John at 860-342-0658.

***Friday, July 14, 9:00a - Little Narragansett Bay and Napatree Point, Stonington and Westerly, RI:** A paddle of 4 to 6 miles in Little Narragansett Bay visiting Sandy Point and Napatree Point. We will walk across Napatree Point to a sandy beach on the Block Island Sound. There will be time allotted for swimming in the Sound and a walk to Watch Hill Point. Rating: P2. No kids or dogs. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at the launch parking lot at the end of Palmer Neck Road at the Barn Island W.M.A. at 10 am. RSVP by 07/14 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, July 15, 9:00a - Grayville Park #1, Hebron: Follow the Orange Arrow trail through the back country of Salmon River State Forest for 7 miles. Featuring: Jeremy River, a long millpond, multiple ridges, and shady solitude. Lunch on a ledge. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 07/14 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Sunday, July 16, 9:00a - Longo Farm Open Space, Glastonbury: A 5- to 6-mile hike in a fairly new preserve in Glastonbury with some auxiliary trails added. Includes a nice vista of Hartford. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather or lack of RSVPs cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland, or ask Glenda for directions to trailhead parking. RSVP by 07/15 to Glenda at 860-659-3178.

Wednesday, July 19, 9:00a - Horseguard State Park, Avon: A 6-mile hike to a vista. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 07/18 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, July 21, 9:00a - Oyster River Paddle, Old Saybrook: A 6-mile paddle on a tidal creek. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 07/20 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, July 22, 10:00a - Grayville Park #2, Hebron: A look at an industrial village gone to ruin with rail trail, dams, sluices, cascades, and some flat walking for 5 miles. Rating: D3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 07/21 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Monday, July 24, 2:00p - "Home by Dinnertime" Paddle - Red Cedar Lake, Lebanon: A 3-mile paddle on a pretty lake with several islands and Mooween State Park on the islands and along one shore. Rating: P3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton OR the boat launch on Camp Mooween Road at the northwestern end of the lake at 2:30 pm. RSVP by 07/24 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

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FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Tuesday, July 25, 7:30a - Air Line Trail, East Hampton/Colchester: A 6-mile or a 12-mile hike. Rating: D1. No kids or dogs. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Cranberry Bog parking lot off Smith Street in East Hampton at 7:30 for a 12-mile hike, or meet at the Bull Hill Road parking area at 8:45 for a 6-mile hike. Bull Hill Road can be accessed from Comstock Bridge Road to Bull Hill Road. The parking area is up the hill. RSVP by 07/24 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, July 26, 9:00a - Quinebaug River Trail, Killingly: An 8-mile hike on a paved path. Rating: D3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 07/25 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, July 28, 9:00a - Mashapaug Pond (Bigelow Hollow S.P.), Union: A 6- to 8-mile paddle in a beautiful lake in northern Connecticut. Time allotted for swimming. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues OR at the Mashapaug boat launch in Bigelow Hollow State Park at 10 am. RSVP by 07/28 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, July 29, 9:00a - Machimoodus State Park, East Haddam: A 4-mile hike to scenic overlooks of Salmon River Cove and Moodus valley with continuation to the former Sunrise Resort. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and water. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Machimoodus State Park on Route 151 in East Haddam. From Routes 66 and 151 in the center of the Cobalt section of East Hampton, drive south on 151 for 6.7 miles. The park will be on the right. RSVP by 07/28 to John Fry at 860-978-8503.

Sunday, July 30, 10:00a - Mukluk Sports Club / Wilson Preserve, Sprague: A 5-mile hike along the Shetucket River in a nature preserve with waterfalls, cliffs, ledges, and fields alternating with woods. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the recreation fields by Franklin School on Route 207, about 2 miles from junction with Route 32 toward Baltic. RSVP by 07/29 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Tuesday, August 1, 8:30a - Day Pond State Park, East Hampton: A hike of 5 to 7 miles. Rating: D1. No kids or dogs. Hiking boots only. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Covered Bridge parking lot on Comstock Bridge Road off Route 16 just west of the Salmon River in East Hampton. RSVP by 07/31 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, August 2, 9:00a - Cedar Hill Cemetery and Cedar Mountain, Hartford: A 6-mile hike in a rural American-type cemetery designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 08/01 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, August 5, 5:00p - Lake Pocotopaug Stroll and Pizza, East Hampton: A 6-mile walk on a lakeside trail and a land trust preserve. Pizza to follow in beautiful downtown East Hampton. Rating: D3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring water and cash for pizza. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 08/04 to John at 860-342-0658.

Sunday, August 6, 10:00a - Mansfield Hollow Paddle, Mansfield: A 5-mile paddle on a reservoir with no power boats having beautiful wild terrain. It is a unique basin where three rivers converge giving a variety of habitat up those tributaries. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Mansfield Hollow boat launch on Bassett Bridge Road off Route 195. From the west on Route 6 take the exit for Route 195, after the exit continue straight on Route 633 (follow signs for UCONN), turn left on Route 195, then right on Bassett Bridge Road. RSVP by 08/05 to Ron at 860-659-3178.

***Monday, August 7, 6:30p - Full Moon Paddle on Pattaconk Reservoir, Chester:** A short 2-mile paddle on a lake in the Cockaponset State Forest to enjoy the moon rise. Rating: P2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at Pattaconk Reservoir at 7:00 pm. RSVP by 08/07 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

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Tuesday, August 8, 8:30a - Gulf Road to Leesville Dam, East Hampton: A hike of 5 to 7 miles. Rating: D1. No kids or dogs. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Covered Bridge parking lot on Comstock Bridge Road off Route 16 just west of the Salmon River in East Hampton. RSVP by 08/07 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, August 9, 9:00a - Mine Hill Preserve, Roxbury: A 6-mile hike into a preserve with the remains of an old forge and iron mill. Rating: B3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 08/08 to John at 860-342-0658.

***Friday, August 11, 9:00a - Summer Picnic at Gillette Castle State Park, East Haddam:** A 3-mile hike through a State park, followed by a picnic at the pond. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring food and drink to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 08/10 to Chantal at 860-573-2946.

Saturday, August 12, 9:00a - Skyline / Minnechaug Mountain, Hampden, MA: A 6-mile hike on a mysterious series of trails wandering a vast mountain on the Massachusetts border. Optional visit to the Powder Hollow Brewery. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the McDonald's parking lot on Route 190, about 0.3 miles east of I-91, Enfield. RSVP by 08/11 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Tuesday, August 15, 8:30a - Machimoodus State Park, East Haddam: A hike of 5 or more miles. Rating: D1. No kids or dogs. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Machimoodus State Park on Route 151 in East Haddam. From Routes 66 and 151 in the center of the Cobalt section of East Hampton, drive south on 151 for 6.7 miles. The park will be on the right. RSVP by 08/14 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, August 16, 9:00a - Whitaker Woods and Soapstone Mountain, Somers: An 8-mile hike in a land trust property and in the Shenipsit State Forest to a well-known mountain. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 08/15 to John at 860-342-0658.

Monday, August 21, 2:00p - "Home by Dinnertime" Paddle - Williams Pond, Lebanon: A paddle of 4 to 5 miles in a lake with several islands just east of Amston Lake. Rating: P3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at the launch parking lot on Route 207 in Lebanon at 2:30 pm. RSVP by 08/21 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Tuesday, August 22, 8:30a - Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth: A 6-mile hike on the west loop. Rating: D1. No kids or dogs. Hiking boots only. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Chatfield Hollow State Park lot on Route 80. From Route 9 take exit 9, follow route 81 south and then take route 80 west (right) for 1.1 miles to park entrance on right. RSVP by 08/21 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, August 23, 9:00a - Poquonnuck River Boardwalk and Trolley Trail, Groton: A 6-mile hike on a boardwalk and in a state park. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 08/22 to John at 860-342-0658.

***Thursday, August 24, 7:00p - Activities Planning Meeting, East Hampton:** Come join us to plan the hikes, paddles, and other activities of your club. Even if you are not ready to lead a trip, please come see what this planning is all about. Bring your ideas for club events. Meet at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1 East High Street, East Hampton. Park in the lot (off Route 66) next to the church which is on the northeast corner of Route 66 (High Street) and Main Street, East Hampton. Enter by the back door adjacent to the parking lot. RSVP by 08/24 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

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Friday, August 25, 5:00p - Wilcox Island Paddle and Boil-up, Cromwell: A 5-mile paddle to see an eagle's nest followed by a campfire. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring cookout dinner, drinks, and food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 08/24 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, August 26, 10:00a - Connecticut River Paddle, South Windsor: Paddle on a section of the Connecticut River having very little boat traffic near the confluences with the Farmington and the Scantic Rivers. Clear water and sand bar beaches make for excellent swimming. Rating: P2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling footwear. Bring swim suits as well as lunch & drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Vibert Road boat launch off of old Route 5 in South Windsor. From I-291 drive north on Route 5 for 0.4 miles, turn left on Chapel Road, then when that ends, turn right on Main Street. Drive 0.6 miles and turn left on Vibert Road. The launch area is at the end of Vibert Road. RSVP by 08/25 to Ron at 860-873-8867.

***Tuesday, August 29, 6:30a - Morning Paddling Exercise, Locally:** Early morning paddling for exercise. Time and distance self-determined. Location will be decided by participants and likely will be in the vicinity of East Hampton. If interested you must contact Tony by the day prior. Rating: P2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinking water. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the location to be determined by participants. RSVP by 08/28 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Tuesday, August 29, 7:30a - Air Line Trail, East Hampton/Colchester: A 6-mile or a 12-mile hike. Rating: D1. No kids or dogs. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Cranberry Bog parking lot off Smith Street in East Hampton at 7:30 for a 12-mile hike, or meet at the Bull Hill Road parking area at 8:45 for a 6-mile hike. Bull Hill Road can be accessed from Comstock Bridge Road to Bull Hill Road. The parking area is up the hill. RSVP by 08/28 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, August 30, 9:00a - Pine Mountain Preserve and the Billings Trail, Norfolk: A 6-mile hike on forest trails. Rating: B3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 08/29 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, September 2, 5:00p - Riverfront Park to the Arrigoni Bridge Stroll, Portland: A 5-mile stroll past an historic quarry, over the bridge to Middletown's Mt. Trashmore. Pizza to follow. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring water and cash for pizza. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 09/01 to John at 860-342-0658.

Monday, September 3, 9:00a - Bolton Notch / Risley Reservoir, Bolton: A roughly 6-mile hike to Risley Reservoir and back. Moderate climb up and down Box Mountain. Possible post hike swim/cookout/party at Bolton Lake. Rating: B3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Bolton Notch commuter lot. From I-384, take exit 5, left at end of exit, right at light onto Route 44 east, go up hill, as you reach Georgina's Restaurant, look for left to get into commuter lot. RSVP by 09/02 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Tuesday, September 5, 8:30a - Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth: A 6-mile hike on the east loop. Rating: D1. No kids or dogs. Hiking boots only. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Chatfield Hollow State Park lot on Route 80. From Route 9 take exit 9, follow route 81 south and then take route 80 west (right) for 1.1 miles to park entrance on right. RSVP by 09/04 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, September 6, 9:00a - Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden: An 8-mile walk on the Hamden section of the trail. Rating: D3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 09/05 to John at 860-342-0658.

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***Friday, September 8, 9:00a - Thimble Islands Paddle, Branford:** A paddle of 6 to 8 miles among the Thimble Islands in Long Island Sound viewing the beautiful homes. We will stop at Outer Island for a picnic lunch and stroll around the island which is part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. Rating: P2. No kids or dogs. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues or at the launch site off Thimble Island Road in the Stony Creek section of Branford at 9:45 am. RSVP by 09/08 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, September 9, 9:15a - Nipmuck Trail, Mansfield: A roughly 7-mile hike with scenic views of Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Fenton River and Fifty Foot cliff. Rating: B3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Mansfield Historical Society on Route 195 for short car spot. From intersection of Route 195 and Route 89 in Mansfield, proceed north on Route 195 for 2.1 miles to Mansfield Historical Society on right and park in lot in back. RSVP by 09/08 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Sunday, September 10, 10:00a - Nathan Hale State Forest, Coventry: Hike for 5 miles near the Nathan Hale homestead north of Coventry Lake. Optional visit to the Bidwell Tavern. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot on Route 66 just west of its junction with Route 6 in Columbia RSVP by 09/09 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Monday, September 11, 2:00p - "Home by Dinnertime" Paddle - Rogers Lake, Old Lyme: A 4- to 5-mile paddle on a lake with varied shoreline and islands for exploring. Rating: P3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Routes 16 and 66 commuter parking lot in East Hampton or the State Boat Launch on Grassy Hill Road at 2:45 pm. RSVP by 09/11 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Tuesday, September 12, 8:30a - Colchester Air Line Spur, Colchester: A 6.6-mile out and back hike on level ground of an old rail spur to the Air Line Trail. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at the Colchester station house off Route 16 (Lebanon Road) 0.4 mile northeast of Main Street in Colchester at 9:30. RSVP by 09/11 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, September 13, 9:00a - Silver Sands State Park and Charles Island, Milford: A 5-mile walk (at low tide) to an island made famous by Captain Kidd's buried treasure in the late 1600's. Rating: D3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 09/12 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, September 16, 9:15a - Hartman Park, Lyme: Option for a 3- or 6-mile hike in a locale with many interesting rock formations. Hike 3 miles by streams, ponds and old foundations. Bail out after 3 miles or continue and hike similar distance. Roughly 6-mile total hike. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the entrance to Hartman Park. At end of Route 11 south, take a left onto Route 82 west. From the intersection of Routes 82 and 156, take a left onto Beaverbrook Road. After 2.7 miles, take left onto Gungy Road and continue 1 mile to park entrance. RSVP by 09/15 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

***Sunday, September 17, 2:00p - Club Annual Meeting and Picnic at Hurd Park, East Hampton:** A 3- to 5-mile hike in the park followed by the club's Annual Meeting. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch, drinks, and food to share. Go regardless of weather. Meet at the Hurd State Park shelter. From intersection of Routes 66 and 151 in Cobalt, drive south on Route 151 for 2.5 miles. At traffic light, take right onto Hurd Park Road and drive to the park entrance in 0.6 miles. Take the park road for about ½ mile and make a right turn to travel to the shelter and ball field which is about ¼ mile up the hill. RSVP by 09/17 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

PLEASE NOTE THAT HIKES WITH * DO NOT GET ADVERTISED OUTSIDE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Meshomasic Hiking Club Summer 2017 Schedule of Events

<http://meshomasichikingclub.org>

Ratings: A=very rough terrain, elevation gain over 1000 ft.; B=difficult terrain, elevation gain 500-1000 ft.; C=average terrain, moderate up and down; D=flat, little or no elevation change; E=exploratory, be prepared for anything; P=paddle; 1=fast; 2=brisk; 3=average; 4=slow

FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

***Tuesday, September 19, 6:45a - Morning Paddling Exercise, Locally:** Early morning paddling for exercise. Time and distance self-determined. Location will be decided by participants and likely will be in the vicinity of East Hampton. If interested you must contact Tony by the day prior. Rating: P2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinking water. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the location to be determined by participants. RSVP by 09/18 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Tuesday, September 19, 8:30a - George Dudley Seymour State Park, East Hampton: A 5-mile exploratory hike which will connect with Hurd State Park. Rating: D2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the end of Clarkhurst Road in Haddam Neck. Drive south on Route 151 from Route 66 in Cobalt for 2.5 miles. Turn right on Hurd Park Road, drive 1.3 miles, then turn right on Clarkhurst Road. RSVP by 09/18 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, September 20, 9:00a - Natchaug Forest, Barrett Ridge, Pomfret: An 8-mile hike on old roads and on forest trails in a state forest. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 09/19 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, September 22, 4:00p - Swallow Watch and Calves Island Boil-up, Old Lyme: A 4-mile paddle in tidal marshes to witness the "swallow funnel" and gathering at sunset. Declared by Roger Tory Peterson as one of nature's greatest shows. Preceded by a campfire on an island. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring cookout dinner, drinks, and food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 09/21 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, September 23, 10:00a - Bamforth Preserve, Haddam: A 5-mile hike on a variety of terrain starting on grasslands to power lines to forests. Great view on power lines to distant hills. Bring binoculars. Many different environments for bird watching. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot off Route 9 exit 8 (Beaver Meadow Road) in Haddam. The lot is just west of the highway between it and the southbound entrance ramp. RSVP by 09/22 to Ron at 860-659-3178.

Sunday, September 24, 9:15a - Penwood State Park, Bloomfield: A 5 to 6-mile loop up and along the ridge of a portion of the Talcott Mountain Range, with beautiful overlooks. Rating: B3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking shoes or boots. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather may modify or cancel. Meet at the park entrance on the north side of CT 185, 1 mile west of the CT 185 and CT 178 junction. RSVP by 09/23 to Polly at 860-539-5186 or silvapm@comcast.net.

Wednesday, September 27, 9:00a - Satan's Kingdom, New Hartford: A 6-mile hike on blue-blazed trails in the Nepaug State Forest. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 09/26 to John at 860-342-0658.

***Saturday, September 30, 10:00a - Hatch Property, East Haddam:** This approximately 5-mile hike will take us through varied topography and habitats, where there will be an opportunity for observing interesting wildlife to include birds and plants. We will also have phenomenal views of the CT River and Long Island Sound. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and water. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 09/29 to Andrea at 860-873-8867.

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